

BEFORE  
THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF  
SOUTH CAROLINA  
DOCKET NO. 2009-12-S - ORDER NO. 2009-602  
SEPTEMBER 4, 2009

IN RE: Application of Aqua South Carolina for	) ORDER GRANTING
Approval of a New Schedule of Rates and	) WAIVER OF
Charges for Sewerage Services Provided to	) REGULATIONS 103-510
Customers in Spartanburg County	) AND 103-532.1(D)

This matter comes before the Public Service Commission of South Carolina (“Commission”) on a request by Aqua South Carolina (“Aqua” or the “Company”) to waive S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 103-510 (Supp. 2008) and 103-532.1(d) (Supp. 2008) under the Commission’s authority permitted by S.C. Code Ann. Regs 103-803 (Supp. 2008). Aqua operates a wastewater only collection service for residents of the Brookside Subdivision in Spartanburg County. Regulation 103-510 requires that wastewater utilities keep and maintain their records and reports in an office located in South Carolina and that these records and reports be available for examination by the Office of Regulatory Staff (“ORS”). Regulation 103-532.1(d) requires that customer bills show the current rate schedule or state the rate schedule will be furnished on request.

Regarding Regulation 103-510, Aqua states that it would not be cost effective to maintain an office in the State due to the small size of its system. However, Aqua states that it does believe a local presence is important and uses Startex, Jackson, Welford, Duncan (“SJWD”) as its local billing agent to handle billing and customer inquiries and

uses a local contractor to handle service calls and emergencies.<sup>1</sup> In addition, the Company states it closely monitors service calls and the operation of the system. Aqua further elaborates that all necessary records are easily transferred to ORS for review by fax or email, and no problems resulted when it employed these methods during ORS's audit of the Company during its recent rate case in Docket No. 2009-12-S.

Regarding Regulation 103-532.1(d), Aqua states it has discussed adding rate schedule information to the bills processed by SJWD, but SJWD is unable to comply because the bill's configuration and the computer system currently in place prevent it from adding a reference to the specific tariff number and rate. Nevertheless, Aqua states that the rate in effect for its customers is a flat \$37 per month charge with no base facility or varying consumption charge, and the rate appearing on a customer's bill reflects the tariff rate.

ORS does not oppose Aqua's request and states that it believes the size of the utility's operation in South Carolina and its reliance on the local public service district for bill formatting justifies the Commission's approval of these waivers.

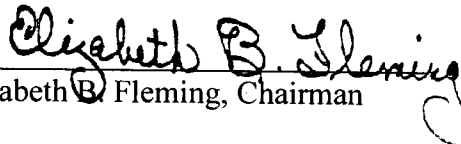
For the above reasons, we find that granting Aqua's request is in the public interest and therefore grant waiver of S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 103-510 (Supp. 2008) and 103-532.1(d) (Supp. 2008) under the authority of S.C. Code Ann. Regs 103-803 (Supp. 2008).

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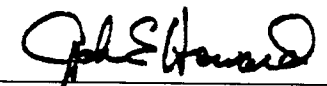
<sup>1</sup> SJWD provides water service to the Brookside Subdivision residents, while Aqua provides wastewater service.

This Order shall remain in full force and effect until further order of the Commission.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

  
Elizabeth B. Fleming, Chairman

ATTEST:

  
John E. Howard, Vice Chairman  
(SEAL)